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NEW YORK TIMES 6 September 1985

Spy Suspect Seeks Names of Military Sources

By ALEX S. JONES

A naval intelligence analyst accused of espionage filed a motion yesterday seeking to force the Federal Government to identify officials who might have disclosed to the press part of the information he was later charged with

illegally disclosing.

The analyst, Samuel Loring Morison, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last October and charged with having classified intelligence documents concerning an explosion at a Soviet naval base. The Government has said that Mr. Morison provided a paraphrase of the documents to Jane's Defence Weekly, a British publication that follows defense issues. The magazine published an article in July, 1984, that the Government says was virtually identical with the paraphrase it says Mr. Morison produced.

Mr. Morison was also charged with selling the publication American satellite photographs of a Soviet aircraft carrier under construction. His trial is set to begin Oct. 8 in Federal District

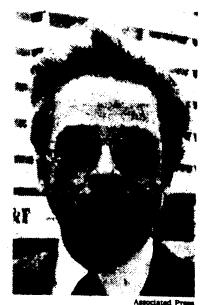
Court in Baltimore.



Mark Lynch, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who is one of Mr. Morison's lawyers, argued in the motion yesterday that information regarding the explosion and its detection by satellite was widely reported in June, 1984. News organizations attributed much of their information to unidentified sources.

Mr. Lynch said the news reports indicated that the information regarding the explosion was not closely held. And he said that if senior officials of the Reagan Administration had disclosed the information, then any release of it by Mr. Morison could not be considered potentially damaging to the nation's security. To win a conviction on the espionage charge, Mr. Lynch said, the prosecution must prove both that the information was closely held and that its release represented a security threat.

But Michael Schatzow, the assistant United States attorney who is prosecut-



Samuel Loring Morison

ing the explosion that was disclosed to the press by Government officials would be "irrelevant" to the case.

Motion Called 'Novel'

Floyd Abrams, a New York lawyer who specializes in First Amendment cases, said the motion was novel in that it sought to weaken the Government's case by identifying the sources within Government who made disclosures to reporters. Such a motion does not represent a threat to First Amendment freedoms, Mr. Abrams said, out he described possible court action to force reporters to disclose the sources as "a grave threat."

Mr. Lynch said defense lawyers were considering such an action as a last resort. It would be an unusual move for the civil liberties organization, which has long supported efforts by reporters to prevent courts from forcing the disclosure of confidential sources.

The motion seeks information from the Defense, State and Justice Departing the case, said any material regard-ments, the Central Intelligence Agen-

the National Security Council and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
The motion asks for "materials which identify individuals" who disclosed information about the explosion.

It also asked for a transcript of an interview given by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on June 25, 1984, 20 news service reporters, or materials concerning any investigation to discover the identities of the unidentified sources refered to in news accounts.

The interview with Secretary Weinberger specificially named in the motion resulted in a news service article quoted in the motion in which the Secretary confirmed that there had been an explosion. The article also said that "defense sources" said that the explosion "was detected by U.S. spy satel-

Subposes Are Planned

In the event those who disclosed the information to reporters cannot be identified, the motion seeks the identities of individuals who had access to the information. Mr. Lynch said that he intended to subpoena them and question them regarding disclosures. If the Government does not voluntarily compiy, Mr. Lynch said, defense lawyers would seek a court order.

Mr. Schatzow said that a formal response to the motion would be filed next week, but he indicated that the Government's position would be to decline to comply with the motion's request. "I wouldn't have the first idea of how to gd about it," he said.

The case has prompted concern among news organizations and civil libertarians because it defines Mr. Morison's providing classified material to a publication as espionage. According to First Amendment lawyers. the only other such case involved similar charges following publication of a Defense Department study of the Vietnam War, known as the Pentagon Papers. In that case, charges were dismissed without resolution of any distinction between espionage and news